

Message Text

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70

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 DHA-02 H-02 L-03 SCS-03

SCA-01 SS-15 SAJ-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 121546Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3829

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7512

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC OEXC UR US

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF IREX GRANTEE SERGE GREGORY

REF: (A) LENINGRAD 721, (B) STATE 114101, (C) MOSCOW 7167

USIA FOR IEU

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES GREGORY INCIDENT SHOULD BE PROTESTED TO MFA, WITH COPY OF PROTEST NOTE SENT TO MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION (AS SOVIET ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR IREX PROGRAM), ALTHOUGH WE SEE NO PROBLEM WITH CONGEN'S MAKING SIMILAR PROTEST TO DIPLOMATIC AGENCY.

2. WE FEEL NOTE SHOULD INCLUDE KGB APPROACH AS WELL AS DENIAL OF CONSULAR ACCESS. OUR SILENCE ON KGB ASPECT COULD BE INTERPRETED BY KGB AS SIGNIFYING THAT GREGORY DID NOT INFORM CONSULATE GENERAL OF APPROACH AND THAT KGB HAS THUS AT LEAST PARTIALLY SUCCEEDED IN COMPROMISING HIM. WE BELIEVE THIS COULD COMPLICATE GREGORY'S FUTURE VISITS TO USSR MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY THAN WOULD OUR OFFICIALLY BRINGING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF MFA. AS CONGEN MAY RECALL, EMBASSY PROTESTED KGB RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT AGAINST EXHIBIT GUIDE IN TASHKENT LAST YEAR, AND MFA DID NOT SUBSEQUENTLY DENY

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KGB INVOLVEMENT. IN SHORT, WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT TO DIS-

COURAGE KGB OPERATIONS AGAINST US CITIZENS IN USSR TO
EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND OFFICIAL PROTEST TO MFA IS ONE OF
FEW AVAILABLE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

3. SECONDARY CONSIDERATION CONCERNS POSSIBILITY THAT
MATTER, INCLUDING KGB ANGLE, MIGHT BECOME KNOWN TO PRESS.
SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST AWKWARD
FOR US SPOKESMAN TO EXPLAIN WHY NO PROTEST WAS MADE RE-
GARDING KGB ACTIONS AGAINST GREGORY.

4. PROPOSED TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WISHES TO
CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE
FOLLOWING INCIDENT, WHICH INVOLVED AMERICAN EXCHANGE STUDENT
SERGE GREGORY AND TOOK PLACE IN LENINGRAD ON APRIL 26, 27,
AND 29.

ON APRIL 26 MR. GREGORY, WHO WAS ENGAGED IN ACADEMIC
RESEARCH IN LENINGRAD UNDER A US-USSR EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WAS
DETAINED AT A GATCHINA MILITIA STATION, IN THE SUBURBS OF
LENINGRAD, UNTIL 10:00 AM THE MORNING OF APRIL 27. HIS RE-
QUEST TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENERAL IN LENINGRAD WAS IGNORED.

THE EMBASSY MUST REGISTER A PROTEST OVER THE
FAILURE OF SOVIET OFFICIALS TO ALLOW MR. GREGORY,
WHO WAS CLEARLY UNDER DETENTION, TO COMMUNICATE WITH
AN AMERICAN CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENT AS SPECIFIED
IN ARTICLE 12 OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION AND THE
PROTOCOL TO THAT CONVENTION. THE EMBASSY ALSO
REQUESTS THE MINISTRY TO ENSURE THAT HENCEFORTH US
CITIZENS IN THE USSR WHO REQUEST TO CONTACT AMERICAN
CONSULAR OFFICIALS ARE ASSISTED IN MAKING SUCH CONTACT.

ON APRIL 29 MR. GREGORY WAS APPROACHED BY A RUSSIAN-
SPEAKING MALE WHO THREATENED MR. GREGORY WITH EXPLUSION
FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND DAMAGE TO MR. GREGORY'S ACADEMIC
CAREER, UNLESS MR. GREGORY AGREED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION
ABOUT HIS SOVIET ACQUAINTANCES, THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH
HAD BROUGHT HIM TO THE USSR, AND THE AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENERAL IN LENINGRAD. THE EMBASSY FIRMLY PROTESTS
THIS UNWARRANTED PROVOCATION AGAINST AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
AND REQUESTS THE MINISTRY TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH
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INCIDENTS DO NOT RECUR. END TEXT.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE OR COMMENTS ASAP.
STOESSEL

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To: SECSTATE WASHDC LENINGRAD USIA
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